

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

13-179

Orleans

EAS.1258

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): First Encounter Beach

Photograph



Address: 5 Beach Plum Lane

Historic Name: Philip and Arlene Druhan House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1948

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

New windows, doors

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.20 acres

Setting: This small parcel is located within a subdivision just north of First Encounter Beach. The surrounding area consists of modest cottages built in the early- to mid-20th century along with newer cottages – some replacing earlier examples. The house is set down slightly below the street level. The house is surrounded by lawn and the remainder of the parcel remains forested.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

5 BEACH PLUM LANE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Philip J. and Arlene Druhan House, built in ca. 1948, is an astylistic two-story, side-gable cottage. In addition to the main block, there is a slightly off-set two-story rear ell with hip roof with a screen porch on the second floor. The cottage rests on a concrete block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. There are a few courses of decorative sawtooth-patterned shingles on the left (south) elevation which may not be original. The doors and windows all appear to be modern replacements, including a greenhouse window on the front elevation. The front entrance is shielded by a shed-roofed portico which also does not appear original.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This parcel is part of 68-lot subdivision called Sunset Village at First Encounter Beach, recorded in 1941 by Frederick T. Sherry and Charles B. Durling. They had purchased this land in 1940 from Freeman C. and Hattie P. Hatch of Eastham.¹ Frederick T. Sherry was born in New Hampshire in 1878. He married Ellen Cecelia O'Reilly in Brockton in 1913. According to the *Boston Globe* article about the marriage, Frederick Sherry (1878-1961) was a well-known Winthrop dentist. The article went on to say, "The marriage will be a surprise to the many friends of the couple, as they gave no intimation of their intentions." By 1950, they appear to have retired to Eastham where they lived on Bayberry Lane. Charles Basil Durling (1901-1966) was born in Duxbury. He married Whitman-born Ada Madeline Sampson in 1930. They lived in Whitman, where Charles Durling was listed as a house painter in the 1930 census and general contractor in the 1940 census. By 1950, they too were living on Bayberry Road in Eastham. The partnership of Sherry and Durling may have been born out of their shared experience as WWI veterans.

This parcel is identified as Lot #3, Block 3 on the Sunset Village subdivision (Figure 2). It was sold in 1948 to Philip J. and Arlene Druhan of Eastham, and they appear to have immediately built this cottage. This may be the same Philip J. Druhan (d. 1965) who was jailed in 1930 for being part of a gang of automobile thieves in Suffolk County. They lost this property through foreclosure in 1949, and the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank sold this property, with reference to buildings, to Lillian M. Christensen of Manchester, CT.²

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 566/ Page 409.

² Book 717/ Page 298, Book 732/ Page 204.

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5 BEACH PLUM LANE

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Lillian Bieri had married Carl Christensen in Connecticut in 1922. By 1950, Lillian Christensen (1902-1995) was divorced and living with her mother in Manchester, CT. She appears to have settled in Brewster, so it is unclear if she bought this cottage for her own use or as a rental property. In 1954, she sold the cottage to Peter and Bettine Amodeo of Yonkers, NY.³ In 1989, Bettine Amodeo was living in the Bronx when she sold it to couples J. Richard Sladkey and Sophia E. Sayigh, and Mark Dreessen and Sara Sayigh.⁴ The property remains in their family.

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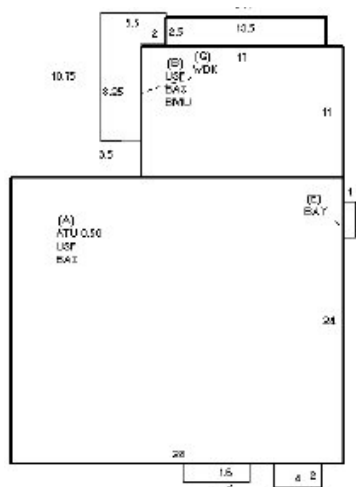


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.

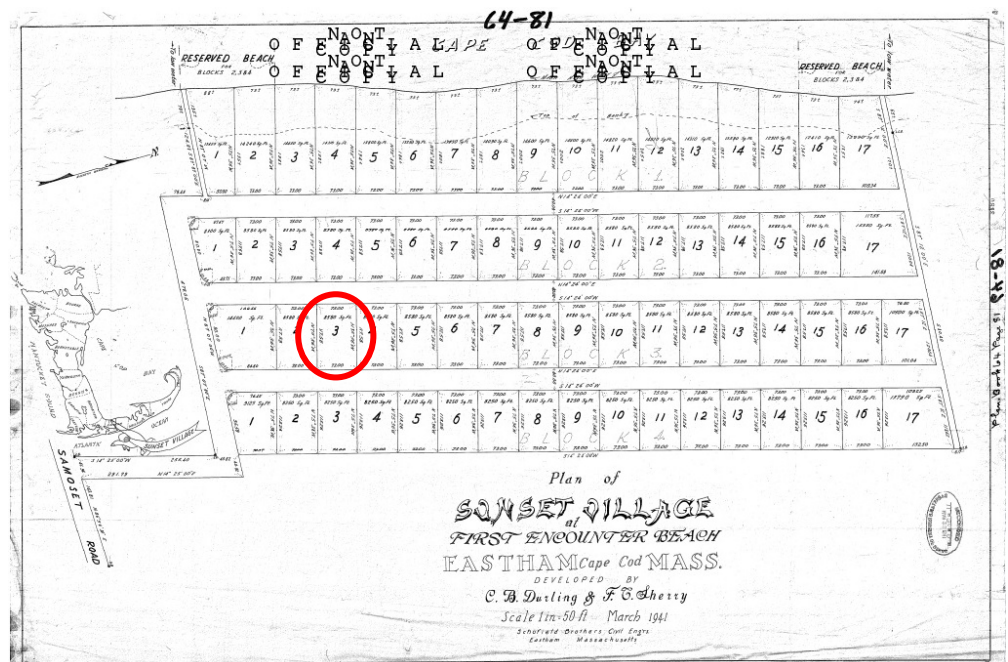


Figure 2. 1941 Plan of Sunset Village at First Encounter Beach (circle around Lot #3, Block 3 added).

³ Book 889/ Page 301.

⁴ Book 6642/ Page 155.